

BROADCAST: 4472

DATE: Sept. 6, 2007

TO: Local Directors, Child Welfare Staff and Financial Officers

TIME: 4:54 p.m.

FROM: Lynette Isbell, Director of Family Services
J.R. Simpson, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: OASIS Accuracy and Program Monitoring – Immediate Action Needed

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In the next few days, you may receive notification from your regional specialist to look at specific foster care cases which fall into one of two categories.

1. Category 1 – Title IV-E cases where “no placement type” is selected in the Online Automated Services Information System (OASIS). For these cases, please immediately review and enter the appropriate placement type in OASIS.
2. Category 2 – Title IV-E cases that have a payment source other than Title IV-E. For these cases, please review and document why they are in the non-reimbursed status. If possible, take actions to move these cases from the non-reimbursed status.

We call this to your attention because we currently are reviewing our Title IV-E penetration rate calculation. The Title IV-E penetration rate is the percentage of the total foster care population that is Title IV-E eligible. This rate determines the share of total foster care (state and Title IV-E foster care) administrative costs that will be reimbursed by the federal government from Title IV-E funds. The higher the penetration rate, the larger the percentage of costs reimbursed from Title IV-E.

Without an appropriate placement type selected in OASIS, a Title IV-E case cannot be counted as Title IV-E in the penetration rate calculation. In addition, cases that are otherwise Title IV-E eligible, but the court hearing was late, the court order did not contain the correct language or the child is placed in an ineligible placement cannot be counted as Title IV-E in the Title IV-E penetration rate calculation. Failure to address these issues will understate the Title IV-E penetration rate which ultimately reduces federal funds available to state and local operations.

This effort will require extra work for your staff members. However, we must ensure that the placement type is selected for all foster care cases in OASIS and Title IV-E cases are funded with Title IV-E dollars wherever appropriate.

Thank you for your help in this very important matter.